

Application No.: 10/659,139

Docket No.: 64671-0480

REMARKS

This amendment is intended to be fully responsive to the Office Action having a mailing date of May 10, 2005. By the foregoing amendment claims 2, 11 and 12 have been amended. New claim 13 has been added. Thus, claims 2, 4, 11, 12 and 13 are pending in this application, and claims 2, 5 and 11 have been rejected. Claim 4 has been allowed. Support for the amendments is found in the originally filed specification and claims.

Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office has rejected claims 2 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) or EP '017 in view of *Yang et al.* and *Hawtof et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

The pending claims relate to a cable for transmitting a signal. For example, amended independent claim 2 recites the following:

A cable for transmitting a signal, the cable comprising:
at least one optical fiber for transmitting the signal;
at least one buffer tube for receiving the at least one optical fiber, the buffer tube comprised of an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide, wherein the alloy is blended with glass fiber.

Yang et al. relates to a "polypropylene-polyethylene copolymer core or buffer tube" (column 1, lines 9-11), and *Hawtof et al.* relates to "optical fibers which include a data storage medium capable of being digitally encoded with a data signal" (column 1, lines 9-11). Applicants submit that the combined references do not disclose or teach a cable for transmitting a signal wherein the cable includes, among other things, at least one buffer tube for receiving the at least one optical fiber, the buffer tube comprised of an alloy of polypropylene and

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polyphenylene oxide. Accordingly, the claims are allowable and it is respectfully requested that they be passed to issue.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claims 2 or 11 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0228116 to *Davis et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

Amended claim 12 defines a cable for transmitting a signal comprising, amongst other things, a buffer tube comprised of an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide. *Davis et al.* does nothing to cure the deficiencies of *Yang et al.* and *Hawtof et al.* with regard to teaching a cable for transmitting a signal wherein the cable comprises a buffer tube comprised of an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide. Accordingly, claim 12 embodies patentable subject matter and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

New claim 13 defines a cable for transmitting a signal wherein the cable includes at least one optical fiber for transmitting the signal and the cable is formed of an alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene oxide. Such a cable is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, claim 13 embodies patentable subject matter.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 4 is allowed.

CONCLUSION


Since none of the references, alone or in combination, disclose or make obvious the invention as now claimed, Applicant respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the pending grounds of rejection and allow the pending claims. If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Request for Reconsideration, including a fee for any extension of time not accounted for above, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0013/64671.0480.

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Dated: July 26, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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